THAKUR): (a) Various scientific organizations under the Government have been working on immunity enhancing products.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Government would provide adequate funds for ensuring availability of genuine raw materials, standardization of products, inter-mural and extra-mural research and broader facilities for testing ISM&H products.

Expensive HIV/AIDS drugs

1380. SHRI RAJU PARMAR:
SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether drugs for HIV/AIDS positive are very expensive in the country as compared to other countries of the world;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government are contemplating to increase the price of HIV/AIDS drugs;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and whether Government are getting any aid from WHO; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. P. THAKUR): (a) to (d) No, Sir. WHO does not provide support for HIV/AIDS drugs.

Use of Anti-Retroviral Drugs

1381. SHRI RAJU PARMAR:
SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that transmission of HIV from mother to the newly born baby can be reduced provided anti-retroviral drugs are given to the mother;

(b) whether any study has been conducted on this; and

(c) if so, the details and the outcome of the study undertaken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. P. THAKUR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government has initiated feasibility studies on prevention of mother to child transmission in 11 centres located in high HIV prevalent States

namely Tamil Nadu (3), Maharashtra (5), Karnataka (1), Andhra Pradesh (1) and Manipur (1). The outcome of the study in prevention of mother to child transmission has been encouraging.

Testing of Experimental Cancer Drugs on Indian Patients

1382. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA':
SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA:

Will the MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state;

(a) whether a scientist of John Hopkins University in the US tested experimental cancer drugs on patients in India;

(b) if so, whether it was done after necessary clearance from Government; and

(c) if not, the steps taken against those found guilty?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. P. THAKUR): (a) to (c) Regional Cancer Centre, Thiruanthapuram had undertaken the clinical trial with two experimental anti-cancer drugs in collaboration with John Hopkin's University, USA. In this trial 26 oral cancer patients were treated from November 1999 to April 2000. Following reports that drugs banned in USA have been used in the trials, an enquiry team was constituted to investigate the matter. As per the findings of the investigating team, consisting of representatives from Dte. General of Health Services, Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and Central Drugs Control Organisation, the Regional Cancer Centre, Thiruanthapuram has not used any banned drug. However, there have been some procedural lapse for which the Director, Regional Cancer Centre, Thiruanthapuram has been served a show-cause notice and directed to suspend all ongoing clinical trials for a period of 6 months. They have also been directed to reconstitute the Institutional Ethics Committee, and co-opt a Member from Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) on it.

Inclusion of ISM and Yoga in the MBBS SYLLABUS

†1383. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY:
SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:

Will the MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.